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The Eagle

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Information](#)[World News](#)[Finance](#)[Entertainment](#)[Guestbook](#)[About Us](#)**NEWS****Baldwin receives conservation award***By Donna Stehling*

Sauk Prairie Eagle

Landowners will have more funds for the purchase of conservation easements.

Officials from Sauk County, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and nonprofit organization gathered at Ski-Hi Fruit Farm on April 22 to honor U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin with a Conservation Leadership Award.

During the last congressional session, Baldwin co-signed a congressional letter that will provide \$150 million for national forest services.

Upon accepting the award, Baldwin extended her arms in acknowledgement of site's beauty and the area's resources.

"Behold the landscape," she said.

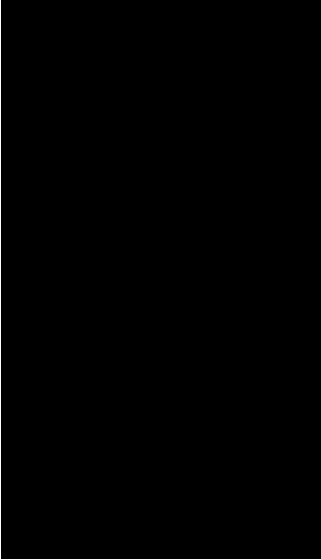
Funds are earmarked for state

Wisconsin will receive about \$1 million in federal funds through the Forest Legacy Program, an amount that will be matched with \$1 million from the Knowles/Nelson Stewardship fund.

The funds are administered by the DNR Bureau of Forestry and are earmarked for the Baraboo Range as part of the agreement for the expansion of U.S. Highway 12 from Middleton to the Wisconsin Dells. These funds can be used to protect forest land and rare oak savannas in the bluffs.

Baraboo Range Commission Chairman Judy Ashford, county supervisor representing the town of Merrimac, said

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they hope to preserve 950 acres in the Baraboo Hills, some with Forest Legacy funds.

Nationally, requests for forest legacy funds total more than \$300 million annually.

Mary Jean Huston of the Nature Conservancy said the organization works only with those interested in protecting their land long term.

In 39 years, 7,600 acres in 11 locations in the hills have been preserved and established nature preserves for hiking, cross-country skiing and wildlife viewing.



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